(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) Setting up industries jat different locations, including rural areas is primarily governed by commercial perception of the entrepreneurs. The Central and State Governments supports the initiatives of the entrepreneurs through some schemes by granting subsidy, concessional loan, etc. Setting up of industries in rural areas is facilitated through schemes like Prime Minister Rpjgar Yojna and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) being implemented by Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. Under REGP, an amount of Rs. 107946.85 lakhs was released as margin money to various States till 31.3.2004.

Effect of Tea Import on Domestic Producers

†4363. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic producers are facing a lot of difficulties due to increase in the import of tea during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to reduce the import of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Most of the teas imported into the country is for the purpose of reexport. Such imports for re-export increases the price competitiveness of Indian teas in the international market besides catering to the requirements of international buyers. The quantum of tea imported is very small in comparison to domestic production.

Mechanism to study problems of industry

4364. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.